

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 12, 2007, has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a shaft having longitudinal grooves; support for this amendment can be found at least in originally filed claim 2. Claims 1-4 have also been amended editorially. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 because the “external means for preventing sliding tangential movements” appears not to be supported by the specification, and for a number of formalities. In the present Amendment and Response, Applicant has amended claim 1. The amendments to claim 1 have addressed the errors recited in the Office Action. Specifically, the “external means” is no longer recited in the claim. Additionally, the word “it” has been replaced with “the bobbin” for clarification. Also, antecedent basis for “the shaft” of claim 2 is provided in claim 1. Applicant has also reviewed and corrected the claims overall, as appropriate. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

A. Rejection over Hara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,823,789)

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,823,789). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites that “the bobbin is provided with internal means for rotationally locking the bobbin to a shaft of the washing unit, said shaft having longitudinal grooves, wherein said internal means is adapted for cooperation with the longitudinal grooves, and wherein the bobbin is embossed over at least a part of an external circumferential surface thereof.” Applicant asserts that Hara et al. fails to disclose a number of elements of the claim, and that Hara et al. therefore does not anticipate the claim.

Applicants assert that Hara et al fails to disclose a bobbin having either an internal locking means for locking to a shaft, or embossing over at least a part of an external circumferential surface, as required by claim 1. Applicants observe that Hara et al. relates to a shaft provided with external embossments for take-up of cleaning cloth. Hara teaches a number of variations on the theme of rolling cleaning cloth, but none of those variations alone or in combination disclose the invention as defined in the amended claim 1. As related to the embodiment cited by the Examiner, Figure 82 of Hara et al. shows a cut-up roll for rolling up a cleaning cloth. The roll of Hara et al. has a flexible sleeve 200 with an attachment portion 202 at an open edge of the sleeve 200; it is not an internal attachment means for a bobbin, as claimed in the present patent application. The roll shown in Figure 82 of Hara et al. also does not show any embossments of an external surface for cloth take-up, as claim 1 now requires. Hara et al. instead teaches that the cloth take-up is taken care of by intermediate pins 203 adapted for cooperation with holes 141 provided in an end of the cloth. *See* Hara et al., Figure 82 and col. 24:5-37.

No other disclosure in Hara et al. suggests that a bobbin would have internal surfaces that could be provided with any internal locking means, or embossments on an external surface of a bobbin. The shafts shown in Hara et al. generally are solid (see, e.g., Figs. 71a-71c), and those having a hollow center, such as disclosed in Fig. 10, do not have any internal locking means; on the contrary, the internal surface of that hollow roll is entirely flat. Instead, the locking of the hollow roll to the shaft is provided by pressing two conically cut-apart shaft portions against one another for creating an internal pressure locking the hollow roll to the shaft. In other embodiments described in Hara et al., other kinds of inclined surfaces of divided shafts serve to increase an outer diameter of the shaft to provide a pressure locking the hollow roll to the shaft.

Embossments are also not disclosed. For example, in Figs. 25-27, a shaft including inflatable members for take-up of cleaning cloth is shown; when the cleaning cloth is removed from the shaft, the inflatable members are deflated to allow the rolled cleaning cloth to be removed; these inflatable members do not provide locking, and cannot constitute embossments as understood in the claims.

Because the numerous embodiments of Hara et al. fail to disclose at least an internal locking means for locking to a shaft or embossing over at least a part of an external circumferential surface, claim 1 is not anticipated by Hara et al. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and inherits all of the limitations therefrom. As such, claim 2 is also not anticipated by Hara et al. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1-2.

B. Rejection over Schmutz (DE 10018425)

The Office Action also rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmutz (DE 10018425). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as well.

As in Hara et al., Schmutz fails to disclose a bobbin having embossing over at least a part of an external circumferential surface and internal means for locking to a shaft. As related to the embossing, Figure 1 of Schmutz illustrates a longitudinally cut-up roll 2, wherein the longitudinal cut 6 enables a piece of the cloth 10 to be squeezed between an internal surface of the roll 2 and an external surface of the shaft 14. The longitudinal cut holds cloth internally to the roll, rather than incorporating embossing on any part of the external circumferential surface. *See also* Schmutz, Figs. 2, 4. As related to the internal means for locking,

Because Schmutz fails to disclose at least these elements of claim 1, that claim is not anticipated by the reference. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and inherits all of the limitations therefrom. As such, claim 2 is also not anticipated by Schmutz. Applicant therefore also respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1-2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Hara et al. in view of Marass et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,735,702). Applicant traverses this rejection as well.

Regarding these claims, Applicant asserts that the combination of Hara et al. and Marass et al. at least fails to disclose the two elements of claim 1 as described above with respect to Hara et al. and Schmutz individually: specifically, a bobbin having embossing over at least a part of an

external circumferential surface and internal means for locking to a shaft. Hara et al. does not disclose or suggest these elements, as described above. Furthermore, Marass et al. does not teach, and the Examiner does not allege that Marass teaches, either of these elements. Therefore, the combination of the two references cannot render either of claims 3 or 4 obvious, as these claims depend from and inherit all of the limitations of claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

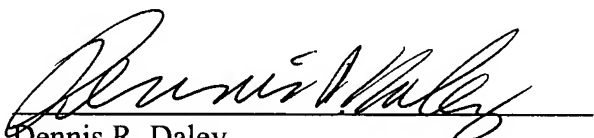
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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